Problems of Tobacco producers

2018. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that owing to severe drought condition in Karnataka, the Tobacco producers in the Sate are in great distress;

(b) if so, the details of the Central assistance provided to the affected farmers;

(c) whether it is a fact that with a view to providing some relief to the tobacco growers, the State Government has requested the Centre to accord approval for sale of entire tobacco produced in the State without imposing penalty on the farmers; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI SATYABRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The Flue Cured Virginia tobacco crop in 2003-04 compared favourably with the crop in 2002-03, in terms of both productivity and quality.

(c) and (d) Government of Karnataka has requested that the unregistered FCV tobacco growers be permitted to market their produce on payment of normal service charges. After a careful consideration of all relevant factors, the Government has levied a very nominal penalty of Rs. 1.50 per kilogram and one per cent of the sale proceeds on marketing of both excess and unauthorised FCV tobacco.

Export of fruits and vegetables

2019. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether any scheme with a view to encourage export of fruits and vegetables from various States is being implemented;

(b) if so, the foreign exchange earned by various States last year and the current year;

(c) whether Government are formulating a plan to motivate the fruit and vegetable growers of such States where off season fruits and vegetables can be grown at large scale; and